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A CEREMONY

—FOR—

Constituting Chapters.

O. E. S.

A CEREMONY

—FOR—

CONSTITUTING CHAPTERS

—INTO THE—

Order of the Eastern Star.

—BY—

JAMES MARTIN, W. P.

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INTRODUCTION.

These pages, like many others, owe their origin to necessity. It was not at first intended to present the work in this shape, but the frequently expressed wish for its publication at last induced the author to set about the task, and it is offered without comment.

It may not at all times be necessary to adopt the following suggestions, but they are recommended as being proper and appropriate.

When Chapters are instituted by Dispensation, they should petition the Grand Chapter, at the session following, for a Charter of Constitution, which, if granted, confirms them in all the rights and privileges of the Order. The Grand Matron then appoints a time for constituting the new Chapter and installing its officers.

If, for any reason, the Grand Matron cannot be present, she should issue an instrument in writing, under her hand and private seal, appointing the Associate Grand Matron or some Past Matron (who may for the time being possess the title of Deputy Grand Matron) to act for her.

The constitution of a Chapter should precede all other business except the opening.

That the ceremony may proceed without interruption, it would be well to provide the Grand Marshal with the roll of Officers and Members and the Dispensation, or have them convenient.

The Dispensation should be cancelled by the Grand Matron and returned to the Grand Secretary, for preservation in the archives.

Ceremony of Constitution.

At the time appointed the Grand Officers will meet in a room near to or adjoining that in which the Chapter to be constituted is assembled. When the Chapter has been opened, the Worthy Matron will say:

W. M.—Sister Associate Conductress.

A. C.—Worthy Matron.

W. M.—Retire to the Preparation Room and announce to the Worthy Grand Matron that — Chapter, U. D., is in order, awaiting her pleasure.

The A. C. retires and announces as directed. When the Grand Officers are prepared to enter she will give the usual alarm. * * * * *

Cond.—Worthy Matron.

W. M.—Sister Conductress.

C.—There is an alarm at the door of our Preparation Room.

W. M.—You will ascertain the cause of the alarm.

C. goes to the door, answers the alarm, and then opening the door says:

C.—Who knocks at the door of our Chapter?

A. C.—The Associate Conductress, with the Grand Matron and officers of the Grand Chapter of —, who are prepared to enter.

C. closes the door, and, advancing, says:

C.—The alarm was caused by the A. C., who an-

nounces that the Grand Matron and officers of the Grand Chapter of — are prepared to enter.

W. M.—Admit them.

The C. opens the door and the Grand Officers enter, led by the C. and A. C. of the Chapter U. D. As they enter the Chapter is called up and music furnished.

* * *

EAST.

Assoc. Cond. *		* Conductress.
Gr. Electa *		* Gr. Adah.
Gr. Martha *		* Gr. Ruth.
Gr. Chaplain *		* Gr. Esther.
Gr. Treas. *		* Gr. Sec'y.
Gr. A. Matron *		* Gr. Warder.

Gr. Assoc. Cond. * * * * Gr. Conductress.

G. P. G. M.

*

Gr. Marshal.

When the above position is reached, the Grand Marshal, advancing slightly, says:

G. Marshal.—Worthy Matron, I have the honor to present to you Sister —, G. M., and Bro. —, G. P., of this State, and their Associate Grand Officers.

W. M.—Sister —, G. M., Bro. —, G. P., and officers of the Grand Chapter, it is with pleasure I welcome you into this Chapter. Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress, you will escort our G. M. and G. P. to the East.

The C. escorts the G. M. and the A. C. the G. P. Upon reaching the East they are saluted with the G. H. The W. M. then resigns the gavel to the G. M., who says:

G. M.—Officers of the Grand Chapter, you will assume the respective stations of the officers of this Chapter.

The officers of the Chapter vacate their stations and they are taken by the Grand Officers.

An Ode may then be sung, and the Chapter is seated.

*

The Grand Patron then rises, and addressing the Grand Matron, says:

G. P.—Worthy Grand Matron, the officers and members of — Chapter, here assembled, have instructed me to inform you that —. W. G. P., (or Past W G. P., as the case may be) was pleased to grant them a letter of Dispensation, dated the — day of —, 18—, authorizing them to form and open a Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. Since then they have met regularly and conducted business according to the best of their ability. Having received the approbation of the Grand Chapter, they have been granted a Charter, and are desirous that their Chapter should be constituted and their officers installed agreeable to the customs of the Order; for which purpose they are now assembled.

G. M.—Sisters and brothers, the institution of a new Chapter is an important event in the history of our Order, and its gravity should be well considered. Before investing it with official authority we will invoke the blessing of Him from whom cometh all wisdom and strength. Let us unite in prayer.

* * *

The Chapter is called up, and the G. Chaplain repeats, at the altar, the

PRAYER

On page 67 of Ritual. The G. M. seats the Chapter and then continues:

*

G. M.—Bro. Grand Marshal, you will call the roll of members, who, as their names are called, will form a semi-circle on the West side of the altar.

When the members of the new Chapter are in position, the Grand Marshal will say:

G. Marshal.—Worthy Grand Matron, I have the pleasure of presenting the members of — Chapter, who, being duly instructed in the ceremonies of our Order, are worthy persons to be confirmed in the rights and privileges of a regular Chapter. In their behalf I deliver to you this Dispensation, by authority of which they have for some time past assembled.

The Dispensation is given to the Grand Matron, who says:

G. M.—It is well. Upon due deliberation the Grand Chapter of — has granted a Charter to the sisters and brothers of this Chapter, which the Grand Secretary will now read.

The Charter being read, the G. M. proceeds:

G. M.— Sisters and brothers, you have heard read the Charter granted to you. Do you accept it upon the conditions named therein?

Ans.—We do.

G. M.—It is well; but before constituting your Chapter, it will be necessary to give your unqualified assent to certain pledges of fidelity, which the Grand Patron will now repeat to you.

Grand Patron—Do you solemnly, and in the presence of these witnesses, *pledge* yourselves—

1st. That you will bear true allegiance to the laws and regulations of the Grand Chapter, and the by-laws of the Chapter of which you may be a member?

Ans.—I will.

2d. That you will never be governed by personal prejudices in matters that relate to members of your

body, or to other worthy members of the Order, or to those applying for admission into your Chapter?

Ans.—I will.

3d. That you will contribute, so far as in your power, to the general good of the Order, avoid quarrels and evil speaking, and be kind and courteous to members of the Order wherever you may meet them?

Ans.—I will.

G. P.—Repeat then, after me, the following

AFFIRMATION:

These are my solemn, sacred pledges, and I will truly and earnestly keep them.

The G. P. directs the members of the new Chapter to be seated on the left, and then says:

G P — Worthy Grand Matron, a voluntary assent has been given to all the pledges.

G. M.—It is well. Sister (or Bro.) —, you will proceed to install the officers elect.

The G. M. should previously appoint some sister or brother (with a rank not lower than P. M. or P. P.) as Grand Installing Officer, who, when directed as above, will proceed with the

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS,

beginning on page 68, at the words, "Call the roll of officers, &c" (the prayer having previously been used). The Grand Officers will vacate the stations in their order, except the G. M., the W. M. being seated on her right.

After the proc'amation by the Grand Marshal that the officers have been installed, he will form them, with the members, in a

CIRCLE AROUND THE ALTAR,

the Grand Chaplain in the centre. The Grand Matron will then say:

G. M.—Bro. Grand Chaplain, you will now dedicate — Chapter, No. —.

DEDICATION.

G. C.—To the memory of the five heroines of our Order we dedicate this Chapter; may every sister revere their character and emulate their virtues.

G. M.—Let us unite in prayer.

* * *

PRAYER.

"Source of all wisdom, truth and love, grant to us that in the reception of this Chapter into our Order, we may add strength to strength, and grace to grace. May the golden chain thus lengthened become brighter, and be strengthened for the great work we strive to do. Enlarge our powers to benefit mankind, to honor Thee our God, and to realize the full happiness of serving Thee forever."

Response.—So may it ever be.

CONSTITUTION.

G. M.—In the name of the Grand Chapter, and by the power vested in me as Grand Matron of the State of —, I now form you into a Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. Henceforth, I empower you to act as a regular Chapter; and may the Supreme Ruler of the Universe prosper, direct and counsel you in all your doings.

Music may here be appropriately introduced, after which the W. M. and W. P. are escorted to the East by the Grand Marshal. Upon reaching the dais the W. M. receives the Gavel from the G. M., takes her proper station and seats the Chapter.

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